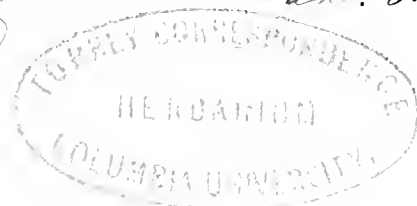


Dr Torrey & Gray
Profess & (et. etc.

Greenville Morgan Co Illinois and. Sept 1848.



Gentlemen!

I take the liberty to send to you herewith the drawing of a plant which I found first in June 1838 in Iowa Terr., but at that time I lost my collection, and held then only the drawing; - this year while rambling over the sand-plains in Northern Illinois I found it again, and sent you drawing & description to your perusal & better judgment. You will know at the first glance whether it is a new plant or not, for my part I never met with it before nor can I make it out in any bot. work in my possession or any of my friends. There also (in the swampy prairies) I found that Umbelliferous plant which you described under *Picota maculata*, but as much as have been at home with that plant in the bot. Gardens in my country, yet I ~~then~~ could not identify it here, and it must certainly be another species; Among Myriads in all kinds of situations (it grows also now & then in sand-ridges) I never found a single one with that spotted stem, nor could I ever find your descriptions disagree with my plant, but none other did agree, especially with the fruit. In my collection I marked it *Picota consolor*, and I would recommend to you to examine again European & Amer. specimens. I hope I shall soon have an opportunity to send to you a selection of my specimens and select seeds for Dr. Gray's bot. Garden.

I was deprived of the opportunity to renew my slight acquaintance with Dr. Gray & especially Dr. Torrey. The collection which I collect send to you ought to have been send to you by me, not sinister motives deprived me of such a pleasure. I hope that I yet may have opportunity to serve that society as one of your many correspondents.

Though general credit I could not share as other botanists who contributed more or less to your publications, yet you have been complimentary enough to mention my name as botanist on Mr. Nicolet's expedition; I thank you heartily for that, but my future correspondence with you, I hope will place me in your opinion above the merely collectors of specimens.

Dear Gentlemen with due respect

Thankfully Yours

Charles Geyer

Cultivator & botanist
Care of Dr. Engelmann St. Louis Mo.

Greenville. Miss. 18 5 43

For Paid 25.

Messrs Torrey & Gray

Professors Drs etc etc

Sing New York
city

To George C. Thorburn Esq.

Spokane Mission Oregon Territory, Decr 28th 1845.

my dear Sir! You will find it perhaps curious that I write to you after a lapse of ten years, and that I write at all, having never had the pleasure of becoming more intimate with you than a servant does commonly with his employer, I think it likely, that you have forgotten me; however, this shall not prevent me to address you by letter at least once, and should it be for no other benefit to me, it at least will show to you that, "kind treatment and regard," shown to man who stands in need of it, is almost without exception, and after many years or forenoon gratefully remembered.

Since I left your service and New York my life has been very much subjected to changes and full of personal experience to me. It would require too much space to recapitulate to you my history and it might also be tedious to you, as my knowledge of the English language is not sufficient to say much with few words. I thought I shall endeavour to give to you the outlines of it, as I am convinced that you take some interest in it, as well as in my future movements. May you also believe me that I shall duly appreciate any account of yours which you might honor me with, in answer to this, and may your letter find you and yours in good health, happiness and prosperity. When I left New York on the 1st of March 1835, my course was directly to the far west, and on the 18th of April I was already on the western borders of the State of Missouri, I equipped myself and made a journey to the Pawnee-Coups Indians on the Big Horn and lower North Fork of the Platte river, got in some difficulty with the Indians, but spent almost the whole of every thing, sick at a climate fever and barely did I bring my life back to this country, it took me a long time to recover, and I embarked from the mouth of Kansas river for St Louis in the Septor, in company with the celebrated astronomer and topographer Nicolle and Sir Charles Munnay Vincent Drummond from Scotland. In St Louis I found to my displeasure that all my letters had failed me, and to occupy myself with advantage and to make my living also I applied myself to printing, to acquire at the same time the English language of which I was much in need. I had enough for a long time on my first journey to the wilderness and remained stationary at St Louis until March 1838, then I got a letter from the above named Nicolle from Washington City, inviting me as an officer of the western exploring expedition for the botanical department, under order of the Secretary of war. This I accepted and I filled, I think, my place to the satisfaction of my patrons for several consecutive expeditions, to the sources of the Mississippi throughout the whole territory between the Missouri & Mississippi up to the line of British America, and the Missouri River to the Yellowstone; I held my place up to the 1st of July 1840 when I attended your brother's establishment at St Louis during his journey and voyage to Scotland. I will not dwell on the unfortunate catastrophe which brought ruin to his fine establishment, nor will I name the cause, though well known to me and likely to you also, sufficient is for me to say to you that I could have then prevented the effect of his absence, had the ~~ADA~~ entrusted me with sufficient power to administer his affairs, instead of others who instead of saving him brought ruin upon him, by not advising him to leave a power of attorney to raise money by mortgage, which was the only means for relief. Pierre Chouteau junr. was ready to pay 3400 dollars (the sum of debt, which ^{your brother's} bookkeepers posted out from the books) had I been able to produce a power of attorney. This, Mr Chouteau and his son-in-law Sandford, who are at present in New York will attest and corroborate. Later I had reason to disapprove of the course your brother took, and had no more intercourse with him, nor could I have kept any service to him. Last spring I equipped myself for a botanical expedition to the Rocky Mountains and I went up in the suite of Sir Wm Drummond Stuart, (Earl of Carnarvon) Monthly in the company of Perth in Scotland, as far as the Colorado River, from there I went with the expedition of the Semites to the Flathead Inds, passing Lewis River and the sources and upper forks of the Madison, from there to Clark River through the country of the terrible Blackfoot Indians; during the November I crossed the mountains between the Salish or Flat-heads and the Skitsawich or Coeur d'Alaine Inds, one of the most terrible journeys I ever made, especially in the midst of winter, crossing 76 times streams, (tributaries of Clark River) some we had to swim, from there I crossed without guide and by the risk of my life and limb the mountains between Skitsawich and Spokane River and arrived at Christmas day at the Missionary Station of the American board of Missions at the Spokane Indians at the house of Mrs Ellis and Walker, Rovers, where I was welcomed like a Christian, and indeed:

indeed I was in want of hospitality, 7 months had I not slept under a roof, constantly exposed to all the changes of weather like a savage; the hospitality which the Semites showed to me was scanty and beggarly, readily did I brave 2 feet snow in the mountains and the rains of the plains for 10 days and nights with scarcely anything to eat, to arrive at a hospitable house of Protestant friends. Rev. Mr. Ellis and Walker are from Massachusetts and since 5 years established at the Spokan River, on the road from the Flat-Wallah to the Nez percer Mission. Their labor among the Spokan Indians and prodigies and they begin to make progress in civilization and christian devotion. We have divine service every morning and every evening; Rev. Mr. Ellis and his lady sing excellent and Mr. Ellis guides the singers by playing on the Violoncello; Mrs. Walker also, a highly educated lady, sings excellent; and Rev. Mr. Walker, also is like his Rev. Brother a man of high education and social & literary acquirements. Never could I appreciate comfort more highly than now, never did I feel so much convinced that ruling providence guards our steps so parental than at present.

From here I shall go on a visit to Fort Colville on the Columbia, being provided with a letter of introduction to Governor McLoughlin at Vancouver, I expect special recommendations from him to all the Forts of the Hudsonbay Co. In the spring I return to the Skitsowich Ind. and pack my collections and my animals and travel slowly down to Vancouver, embark in the month of septbr for London, from there I shall go to Scotland, on a visit to Sir Wm Stuart at Muirhead, either return to London, from there to Rotterdam, Antwerp to Brussels, up the Rhine through Germany to Saxony, Austria and to Pisa, to visit the famous Nurseries of Orange trees of every variety, from there I return and go back to Scotland to dine with Sir Stuart and lay out his neglected parks in pleasure grounds, I hope that I will like Scotland to make it perhaps my home, this however is not yet certain. I have now made you acquainted with my future movements, may I also ask the favor from you to supply me with a few letters of introduction to England and Scotland? You have many correspondents there and especially with men of our profession, this would be highly gratifying to me as my acquaintance with them is to be made I should like to make it by your respectable aid. You may if you like entrust me with any orders or reports concerning your business it shall be faithfully complied with by me, not alone in England & Scotland but also to any amount on the continent, Holland, Belgium, Prussia, Italy, any place in Germany and even France I shall visit after my return from Italy. Whatever information you should desire, on any agricultural, horticultural or technical subject, within my comprehension I shall give with all my ability. Great is the progress, which Gardening has made in Europe since I left it, but I hope not so great that I should not be able to make it again with my assiduity. Your letters will reach me under the address, Mr. A. Beyer, care of A. W. Storer Esq. No 5, Upper Hyde Park Street, London. Mr. Storer is an intimate friend of mine with whom I travelled from Missouri to the Rocky Mountains. My collection of Botanical specimens, which will probably amount to 20000 specimens is destined for Sir Wm Jackson Hooker in Royal Herbaries and he will be the only man besides Mr Storer whom I know in London. - Now a few words about Oregon Territory as far as I have seen it at present. - Of late, this territory has attracted much the attention of the people of the U. States, by the resolution introduced to the Congress by Mr. Lyon of Missouri. The love for change and enterprise of the American people has been ready seduced many hundreds of families to leave the fertile plains of the West for Oregon, and false reports will induce others to follow, I fear. This is the worst possible change that could be made. If the people of Sweden, Finland etc, even the people of Upper Canada would emigrate to Oregon, all would be right; but the farmers of the fertile valley of the Mississippi should stay where they are. A territory is intersected with high mountains down to the shores of the Pacific, its valleys are narrow, its rivers full of cataract and dangerous for navigation, already have 5 individuals of the emigrants lost their lives in the Columbia, the soil is for 9 to parts sandy or stony, or where valleys are with deep fertile soil, they are not sufficiently elevated above high water. For the most part is want of hard timber for technical purposes, at least in some parts. Most of the mountains which separate one valley from another are inaccessible to other conveyances except pack animals, then mountains.

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George C. Shorburn Esq

to W. John Street



New York
city

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